

Message Text

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51

ACTION L-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-07 EA-06 COME-00

OMB-01 TRSE-00 FRB-03 CIEP-01 STR-01 INRE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IGA-01 /077 W

----- 111805

O R 011133Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2812

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAMASCUS 767

BEIRUT FOR AGATT

DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE; AGRICULTURE ALSO FOR DONALD E.
BROCK, OFFICE OF SECRETARY BUTZ FROM WRIGHT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, SY, US

SUBJ: PL 480 AND TRADE WITH NORTH VIETNAM

REF: A. STATE 45894 (NOTAL)

B. DAMASCUS 664

C. BEIRUT 2437

1. SUMMARY: FOR THIRD TIME, UPON INSTRUCTIONS, WE HAVE
ASKED SARG ABOUT TRADE WITH NORTH VIETNAM. SARG ANSWER REMAINS
THE SAME: WE HAVE NO TRADE WITH NORTH VIETNAM. UPON RECEIPT
THIS MESSAGE, REQUEST ISSUANCE OF PA-'S AND CABLED CONFIRMATION
THIS FACT TO EMBASSY AND AGATT/BEIRUT. END SUMMARY.

2. PER REQUEST REF. A, WE ASKED SARG FOR THIRD
TIME WHETHER ANY TRADE EXISTED BETWEEN SYRIA AND NORTH VIETNAM.
RESPONSES WERE CATEGORICALLY NO:
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A. ECONOFF MARCH 1 SAW DR. DAOUD HEDO, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FOREIGN TRADE, MIN OF ECONOMY AND FOREIGN TRADE. HE APPROVES ALL IMPORT AND EXPORT LICENSES, AND THUS HAS TRADE INFORMATION PRIOR TO BUREAU OF STATISTICS. HEDO CATEGORICALLY STATED THERE WAS NO TRADE BETWEEN SYRIA AND NORTH VIETNAM, DURING 1973 (LAST YEAR FOR WHICH COMPLETE PUBLISHED TRADE DATA AVAILABLE), DURING 1974 (FOR WHICH FIRST SEVEN MONTHS PUBLISHED DATA ARE AVAILABLE, SEE BELOW), AND UP TO PRESENT. HE FORESEES NO TRADE IN FUTURE AS TWO COUNTRIES "HAVE NOTHING TO SELL TO EACH OTHER".

B. ECONOFF MARCH 1 ALSO ASKED DEPUTY MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING AFFAIRS ISSAM HILOU ABOUT SUCH TRADE, NOTING THERE WAS NO INDICATION IN OFFICIAL TRADE STATISTICS FOR 1973 AND FIRST HALF OF 1974 OF SUCH TRADE. U.S.-EDUCATED HILOU, WHO HAS BEEN WITH MINPLAN SINCE 1962 AND IS VERY WELL INFORMED ON ALL ASPECTS OF SYRIAN ECONOMY, INCLUDING FOREIGN TRADE, SAID "YOU MAY BE SURE WE HAVE NO TRADE WITH NORTH VIETNAM."

C. DURING RECENT NEGOTIATIONS OF NEW AID ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS WITH SYRIA, ECONOFF ASKED USAMA MALKI, U.S.-EDUCATED DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH DEPT., CENTRAL BANK OF SYRIA, WHY TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH CEYLON AND NORTH VIETNAM STILL EXISTED WHEN SARG WAS MAKING CONSCIOUS EFFORT (WITH IMF ENCOURAGEMENT) TO ELIMINATE ALL TRADE AND CLEARING AGREEMENTS. MALKI SAID SINCE SYRIAN TRADE WITH CEYLON AND NORTH VIETNAM WAS NEGLIGIBLE OR NIL, SARG HAD BEGUN TO PHASE OUT OTHER MORE IMPORTANT AGREEMENTS FIRST AND WOULD GET AROUND TO THE LEAST IMPORTANT AFTER ELIMINATING OTHERS. MALKI SAID HE WAS AWARE OF NO TRADE WITH NORTH VIETNAM UNDER THIS OLD 1969 AGREEMENT.

D. CENTRAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS PUBLISHES "MONTHLY SUMMARY OF FOREIGN TRADE (RAPID)", WHICH ARE NOW CURRENT THROUGH JULY 1974. WHILE NEGLIGIBLE IMPORTS ARE LISTED FROM CEYLON (AND NO EXPORTS), NO IMPORTS OR EXPORTS ARE LISTED FOR NORTH VIETNAM IN ANY OF THESE SEVEN MONTHLY OFFICIAL TRADE SUMMARIES.

3. WE HOPE THIS REAFFIRMATION IS SUFFICIENT AND THAT PA'S NOW CAN BE ISSUED. PLEASE CABLE CONFIRMATION OF PA'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ISSUANCE TO EMBASSY AND AGATT/BEIRUT.
MURPHY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Draft Date: 01 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchandr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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